

SHIFTING GEARS

THE CHANGING MEANING OF WORK IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1920-1980

GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

INTERVIEWEE: Eino Jalonen

INTERVIEWER: Martha Norkunas

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TYPIST: Kathy Zelny

TAPE ONE, SIDE A

MN: Today's November 9th? No. Tenth. November 10th, 1988 and I'm here with Eino Jalonen.

EJ: Yes.

MN: You said you don't pronounce it Eeno. What do you...how do you...

EJ: No. Ano. Yeah. The ei is pronounced the same as in eight. Ano. Eight, you know, that's eight, Eino. In Finnish they have that. Eino. Yah.

MN: Eino, o.k.

EJ: They all call me that for 43 years. Eino, yes. And they do around here you know. Probably could say Eno, they don't even know. Now when we start this, ah, you, what are you going to do? Are you using names? or...

MN: I can put a name on it; I can make sure your name doesn't appear

EJ: No. I don't, I don't, I don't care for names as far as that goes. But do you, can you, whatever you gonna do, you gonna do without names?

MN: I can. However you want it.

EN: Wah, but I mean what, when you write up, what are they gonna do afterward? A...the book or something?

MN: Right. Some people, if they don't care, I might say their name and I might say, "this is a quote from Dorothy Pastor..."

EN: Well: that, that's all right.

MN: But if they didn't want a quote becausethey...of what they said was

confidential, I would say, "One person told me."

EJ: Yah, but I mean like as far as dates, I wouldn't know dates right to be exact. Just to

MN: No, don't worry.

EJ: But, and, yah.

MN: Just like we were talking yesterday.

EJ: Don't worry, be happy. (laugh together) That's the

MN: It's all stuff that you know, so don't

EJ: Yah, ok but this is what I mean as far as a lot of dates. I'm bad on dates, remembering dates, you know. things like that. Now you gonna ask me questions or we just gonna

MN: Yah, I'll just ask you now, don't worry about it. It's just as though we were yesterday. What I want to start with is, when did your family come to Gardner?

EJ: My family never lived in Gardner.

MN: Well...

EJ: my, my family lived in Worcester near memorial Hospital on Belmont... Edward Street and then in 1920 my father was working in the wire mill in Worcester; and he decided the wire mill had a...well they had health hazards; and it was dangerous working in an old safety rules those days, and the acid that they were using to clean wire affected his health. he said, "Well..."

MN: How was he affected?

EJ: Well, acid eats, eats, you know it'll eat your teeth and course it eats your clothes and everything; but anyway, it's inside of a mill where the steam was coming out of the acid at hot acid tanks and so he decided he'll, at that time there was a trend to come toward Hubbardston and toward Gardner; and the ah people of Finnish decent would ah, ah buy these farms, old run down farms, so

he, ah, found us a little farm in Hubbardston where he lived; I lived all my life actually and ah he bought that and he got a mortgage from some other person and he worked in...in Worcester then. Probably two, two years or three years after he bought the farm he would travel on the train and come home. Sometimes he'd stay there weeks; he had a room; and come home Saturdays and Sundays. And then go back on the train. That was our only means of travel cause we didn't have any car of course in them days in the 1920's and I went. Well, in 1920 I went to the farm at the age little under six and I can remember to this day we'd have to walk a mile and about a mile and three quarters from the depot to where I lived.

MN: Ah, when you first arrived?

EJ: when we first arrived. We walked and ah I had a brother, two years older than I was and uh my mother, course my father stayed in Worcester and uh when we got to the house, we said, "Gee, this isn't too ah, too nice, There's nothing here. Just a house. You know, supposed to be a farm." So of course we were hungry. That train, I don't know if we got up at 7 in the morning but then when it got near noontime we went to the neighbors which right across the s...where there was a stone wall. That was the neighbor, an old lady and ah my mother asked her if she could buy a sandwich and them days it was mostly egg sandwiches or something. You know, cause they were people that lived there a long time. So they gave us something to eat. The sandwiches and my mother offered to pay, they took pay for it and...

MN: They took the money?

EJ: Yah. These are the old Yankees.

MN: Oh, they weren't Finn's?

EJ: NOOH No. Oh Finnish would never, never NEVER do anything like that! So that was a beginning of our life up there. Well, then it went from there to ah course you had the wood stove to keep going all the time; and then kerosene lamps

and in the beginning I think we had at our sink, we had only the pail of water there. You had to go and winch it up out of the well. There was a winch. We winched the water up and then used that for their cooking and everything, and of course my father had got a sauna later on and we used that for baths and in the real wintertime, when we were small, we had of course the big tub in the kitchen heated water on the kitchen stove and ah.

MN: Did he build the Sauna?

EJ: Huh?

MN: Did he build the Sauna?

EJ: Well, at this one, this, this, this was ready, this was a shed like a tool shed. The outside was all there and then with the horses and, and, uh, uh, some help they made wooden rollers. They'd roll the thing about four hundred feet away from the house so that when you had a fire and that to heat the rocks in the steam bath, if it got on fire, it wouldn't burn the house down. And the ah, ah, ahem outdoor toilet was hooked onto that building at one time. Of course that was taken off (chuckle) put the outdoor toilet down next to the barn which was about a good one hundred fifty feet from the house. So we all had a pretty good system. We didn't need to go in the winter or (laugh) in...in the of course what, what we used then, course we didn't, them days I didn't know about the toilet paper we had it in the city; but it was the old Sears Roebuck catalogs, Charles Williams, Montgomery Ward catalogs that we'd put on a spike. That's what you'd use (laugh). So the life uh the life then was uh pretty rough for a uh people like us but actually there weren't many indoor toilets at all in Hubbardston then. I think there was only one house that had indoor flush toilet.

MN: And did most of the people have Sauna's?

EJ: Oh, yah, the Finnish people did. But not the Yankees. At one time the...in the beginning they even tried to ah, uh, bar any people of other nationality coming into town. Yah, this, this is the God's honest truth.

MN: How big of them.

EJ: Well they gave meetings, why should we have these people of different Swedish decent or Finnish decent come into our area? And the places were all run down... well Finnish people, Oh no you give them an axe and a knife and a hammer, they'll fix anything, you know. So they fixed the places up and started these little farms, chicken farms and two or three cow, we had two cows, and ah most of the time, at first we had to cut the hay with a scythe and eventually my father got a horse and got the one-horse mowing machine the, the s...land was awful stoney and it was hard to ah use any equipment but, ah,

MN: That's what you were telling me yesterday; that the people came up.

EJ: Yes, yes. And it ah, they worked hard trying to pull them stones up. The reason the stones, there were so many rocks and stones large ones in Hubbardston, and old timer told me they left them. They used to work with oxen and they left these stones to hold the heat. When the sun warms the rock up in the daytime, they left them rocks in the ground so that what they had planted wouldn't get the frost so quick. But it sure was a nuisance to have them stones there. But when you hand worked it, you know, it wasn't quite as bad. And ah, then us...us kids, my brother and I went to school. We had to walk quarter, well an eighth of a mile and stand on the corner and wait for the school wagon. The roads were all dirt. Wait for the school wagon to come.

MN: You gonna tell me about the school wagon?

EJ: And pick us up and the the seats were lengthwise in it. There was about maybe fifteen of us kids and it took about an hour. We'd have to be there 8 o'clock and we got to school 9 o'clock. In that wagon sittin.

MN: Busses?

EJ: Eight, eight years, eight years, well then it went on when the model _____ and in between the eight years one, ahem, one of the school wagon drivers or bus drivers or whatever you want to call them had a pair of mules,

he ah, (chuckle) we...we rode with a mule pulled by a mules for at least two years, a pair of mules. But then it went to the Model T. And the Model A. And it would get stuck and we'd have to get out and push then in the mud and in the winter it would it would, it would, it was really terrible. When it was real bad weather the roads weren't plowed, but I'd go to school with skiis anyway. We didn't do nothing in school. There's lamp lights in school and they burned wood. Two classes in one room. And a big pot belly stove and ah, they burned wood. They had one of the boys in the front seat that would take care of that stove then and put the wood in when it needed wood; and on a dark day, we only had some kerosene lamps in there cause there was no electricity. But uh, on the days it was stormy we didn't do nothing anyway, so, but I, I, my father always said, "Hey, you got a job to do, you got your job, is to go to school. And you get up early enough." which we always did, "and that's your job, to go to school and learn something." And we did it. Even like I say, with the skiis and we'd go to the library two times a week. Ah, the Hubbardston library, they had a nice library. It's still there, you know on the right hand side. The, the man that built Clark University, he owned that...that highway and he was going to put the railroad through the town but the old townspeople objected to it. So they put it over a mile away from in the town. You know, the railroad that comes to Gardner. This railroad here.

MN: You'd go to the library twice a week?

EJ: What?

MN: You would go to the library twice a week?

EJ: Oh, yah. Oh, sure. Read ah, ah, I'm a little bit, on one ear I can't hear very well; but yah. We ah, read all the eh, all of his peter Rabbit books in the beginning. Oh yah, we'd go down there, we'd get them books. I'd go with skiis or we didn't have a bicycle even, in the beginning we'd walk and get the books and read that night. We'd have the lamp, kerosene lamp and we'd read that, you know and...

MN: Was that your mother or fathers' idea that you should go?

EJ: Yah, but we liked that. We liked that. Oh sure. Well they were well taught, only four years of school in Finland; but no vacations. They knew all the American history and, and uh everything, They got citizen papers and a short while, they couldn't speak English that good; but long as you ah, ah had behaved and, eh, when my father went for the citizen papers, the judge asked him, "You ever been in trouble?" "Yes," he said. "I, I got drunk once and, and, uh, they put me in Jail." "Well..." he said, "You gonna be good from now on?" "Oh yes." So. (laugh) He, he got a kick out of that, I guess. So them days, they had moonshine. You know and they would course... after pay day, they'd have (stutter) all, all them old timers had you know, their little nips of moonshine. So that was pretty good.

MN: Do you, why did they come here, Eino, from Finland?

EJ: Well er, it was...the word passed around from here to Finland in the letters that, er, things were good here. Now wether they were or not...I don't know; but there was a big influx of, of them people when they came and they had the military. Ah, you were compulsory military service you know, but my father didn't avoid that. He went in. He went, in fact, to be inducted in, I forget what it was anyway; but ah, they were filled up or something and, and, uh, so they, you know, they, they just... they all got that fever of coming over here, you know. When it came to _____ first crossed the Baltic Sea, there in a little boat and they said they would drop everybody who was sick. And then of course took a long time on the other boat to come over here. And, ah, some of em went to Minnesota. You know and Michigan and all around and a lot of em stayed in New York. But I don't know.(stutter) The person that they contacted was in Worcester and directions, so that's why they came to Worcester then.

MN: Yah, I was going to ask you why they came to Worcester.

EJ: Yah, They came to Worcester and, uh, of course down ther the conditions in them days, you didn't have a union. The, those that had a good job used to pay off the foreman every pay, pay night, you know. And it didn't matter much if they

even worked in there so that this is what brought on unions too, you know, it's.

MN: they paid em off just to keep their job?

EJ: Yah. Sure...sure. But anyway, they decided then to make that move over to the farm, and uh.

MN: Had...were your parents married when they came to the United States?

EJ: No. Well, wait a minute, yah. No they...my father married my mother then when they were in Worcester. There was a the whole Belmont Street area there that was Swedish and Finnish and there's still quite a few there but of course the older generation is gone and the younger generation has er married into other other uh nationalities. So ah, yah, it was born in down there and ah my brother, ah my brother when he was fourteen, ah, got out of grammar school he ah this is kind of a sad thing...ah he went to Worcester Trade. We had choice of either going to a high school on a bus to a Gardner or then go to ah North High in Worcester and take the agricultural course or then go to Worcester Boys Trade School to learn a trade. They had electrical, carpentry, printing and all this. So he decided to go to Worcester Trade. I was still in grammar school...and ah, we always had to walk or take abicycle in the summer that mile and three quarters every morning and night and the train started 7 o'clock in the morning and school school had shop one week. You went in at 8 o'clock then school was 9 o'clock. One week school, one week shop. and then the train would come back six o'clock at night. We'd be in school till ah 4 o'clock and then we'd have to wait for the train every night. _ We'd go to either Lincoln Square and then Union Station and by the way, our grammar school was from nine till four when we were in grammar school. And by the time we'd get home it was bout five because we'd have: to have that ride. That's the kind of a day we put in school.

MN: Did you go to Worcester Trade?

EJ: Yah, I'll get to that, now my brother was a great one for for ah for like swimming or sports. He was much more rugged that I was. At, at 14 he could

pick up a 100 lb. of grain and put it in the wagon. And he went swimming a lot down the ah ah Worcester Boys' Club. They had a pool there before he took the train. And that was the time when they had ah the infantile paralysis, at that time. Well, woke up, I always slept with my brother, woke up one morning, he said, "I can't move". He was 14 and I was 12 so well of course mother had to get a doctor some way. Course we didn't have a car or telephone had to go wherever she went to try to call up and doctor finally came and said that he had infantile paralysis. So he was brought to different hospitals as far as Boston even. He was paralyzed completely and ah he only lived a few months. So ah anyway, ah then one ah I got old enough to go to high school, oh we had a choice also of Holden, Holden High and ah I started, decided to go to Holden High. They had four trains out, one seven o'clock going to Worcester, one ten. Then coming back in the afternoon you had a train 2 o'clock and at 6 o'clock. Well. The ah in about I...I went to Holden about one month then they took off the 10 o'clock train and the two o'clock train to come back so I would've had to wait till ah, 6 o'clock at night getting out of the high school around one o'clock. So I had no choice but to stay home and so I stayed home and my father had quit then the wire mill and things were getting worse and worse; chop wood for \$1.00 a cord, cut cord wood, and so I did a little bit of trapping. And ah all my my traps that I trapped in the ah brooks or in the lake was what you call a waterset. When I caught a muskrat it was drowned when I went there in the morning. Well, it so happened I caught one mink only. And you can't believe it at that time I got \$35 for that mink and my father couldn't get over it. It was such a large mink, been there for years at Moose Horns. Moose Horns the name of the lake that that I put the traps in and it was in the fall even thin ice but I used to take them both myself and and put that waterset out there. Well, the ah and I I used to go a mile well about three miles to another pond and I started to put two or three traps in there which had a lot of ah in Princeton had a lot of muskrats. And it so happened this one muskrat hadn't drowned and it it stood up there with it's paws

like that (pause) one foot in the trap and I'm supposed to drown it which I did. I picked all my traps up, brought em home, put em in the barn, told my father, "Never again". So ah anyway, ah, it was a little income. You know, you get 99¢ for a muskrat pelt. I'm not a religious guy, my father always said, "Well you go to ah go to church ah and see what it's like." He said, "We had to go in Finland. We had to go rain, snow, or anything. We had to go," He said. He said, "You go, you're able to read. You decide if you want to go to church or not." Well, we went probably for about seven or eight months and then we just tapered off and ah my father says, "Well, the main thing is is do what's right and you've got as good a religion as anything." So this is how it happened that that muskrat, like I say, I'm not religious, but boy, I'll tell you that was it! No more! Ever!! and that's why...I I love animals. But ah, there were things in life you know you have to...to

MN: So this was the late '20's, the beginning of the '30's?

EJ: Yah, this, this was just about 19 well ah 19 ah yah, was after 1928. ok.

So when I ah when they took the trains off and I couldn't go to Holden High School this man came around. He was buying furs. That's just when I had a few furs. So I told him well, I I sold my furs. He said, "What are you doing? You ah you stayin home?" Well I explained to him they took the train off. So he says to me ah, "would you go to Worcester Trade School ah if now this if there was an opening?" So I asked my father I said, "You know I can't go to high school, how about if I go to Trade School?" Yes, you go to trade school." So he said, "I'm an instructor. Go down to the trade school and I'll see if I can get you in." So I entered trade school in April and I went through April, May, June with that class. Now, it sounds like its a good thing, but I lost a lot of my trigonometry-geometry and in the all them years in the beginning and you should have them. The elementary but _____ well anyway I made the grades. then I had to go through the summer to make up time. You had to put in 4,000 hours in 4 years. So...the course that was open

was cabinet-making and my father said, "Well there's a lot of wood shops in Gardner that and for your own knowledge," he said, I said..."You're too young we have no work anyway" so my father was smart you know. My folks were smart for for them to talk that way and and they had to be smart. Be so I went through trade school and then in 1933 I had a I mentioned that before we had no car. We had we did have the electric lights but ah no telephone. So my only way my father said, 'Well, Roosevelt got in and it looks like things are put at minimum wage. Now if you work you're going to get 30¢ an hour or in the toy coat, 35." So I said, "Well I guess it's time for me to go and look for a job." So early in the morning I got up, got on my double frame bike, heavy bike, balloon tires and I rode over here the 10½ miles to Heywoods. I parked the bike next to the building, there was a line over at the what is the ah barroom there. Jennifers used to be Carbone's across the street. You get in that line and the man in the ah guard shack there they would hire in there and he'd just sit there shake his head you know and then the guys would go off and then when I got there he asked me, "What would you want to do?" "Well, any job." "OK. Get over here." So i they showed me then what my work would be up in the carriage department. Now my instructor over in trade school said, "Look when you get a job, don't tell them that you've been through trade school. Because the minute you tell them that they'll demand too much. So I worked in the carriage department and this is where they made the wheels and everything; but right next to it was the sample room where you make the new designs for carriages and all the new parts for new carriages that they either ah think it up themselves or they've got somebody else who can change it just like cars they change it. So the boss in a short while says, 'Hey how bout you goin to work in that sample room? would you want to work there?" "Yah, I always liked working with my hands, you know," and that was right up my alley. I got in there and Oh I loved that because all the work was different. You never had the same thing. You know like bend bend springs. You heat em up and you bend em and for the new carriages and then you have them make a form that ah one, one form might be shaped like this and you want it to sring that way so you you cut it out of a piece of iron and then the the other one would the other form would come into there and you had this piece of steel and when ;you pull the other form it would bend it the, the spring stell was red hot in the press room they did that for piece work then. But all these different shapes you had to make it then and bolt it on a big plate, hard to handle so when they took that hot spring out, put it in there, then they pull these handle things, put the shape in when that cooled off there, well they do that all day long so and

MN: Was this in the sample room?

EJ: This was in the sample room. We made all the jigs you know and fixtures and then another thing we had to make all the screw drivers. They have the anvil and the forge screw drivers, pinch bars, punches, and oh I loved that. I...they had the old blacksmith there but I always ask him this and that then I'd get the books from the library, you know on tempering and and working o metal. Well I did all my own own blacksmithing then you know because I really loved that anyway.

MN: And you really didn't have any trining in blacksmithing did you?

EJ: Oh no, I just picked that because I was handy with my hands, but what I learned in trade school, the knowledge...so I worked in there uh oh ah...well actually...it started from I worked there practically all my life until the well until the war came along. Then we made jigs and fixtures for the bomb fields and and everything. And ah little dyes and things that that oh yah well then when they went to the wooden carriages this was during the war time they asked me if I could make a a dye to to ah cut a strip and and make like a staple that they could put through the wooden carriage and then then turn it over on the other side to hold that together. So I made a staple about that wide. and when when it cut it off and they formed it then oh boy they used them all through the war then and I had bought one of them wooden carriages and we loved it but I gave it to my nephew. I wish I'd kept that. Oh that really was something else. Folding...folding carriage out of wood. So they wanted ah for a while they wanted the oh this they were had gone into car seats and we started...

MN: Is this after the war?

EJ: Yah, they, well before the war they were into car seats and ah bus seats and all that so we had to make a lot of stuff for them, too. But after the war recon-reconversion we had we had to move where the main office was. They moved that...the old ah the old blacksmith's shop used to be down

TAPE ONE, SIDE B

EJ: back to the, next to the main office on the first floor.

MN: They moved the machine shop? Oh...

EJ: During reconversion from from that the over there because the the old the old time machinists were in that building then but that was an older dilap...dilapidated place so they put it right in ah well yah, ok we look across here the ah next to the main office on that floor and put in a blacksmith shop there with two, well they put the blacksmith shop, actually when the war was going on with two forges and then we had one side of it and we also did them the a lot of the ah the machinists work there was a big demand for all the tools, you know to the ah like when they had the war all the girls that worked there, they had to have all these punches and everything, and we we'd make em up chisels and everything and then then they started to to more modernize, well it was being paid by the government and they would buy everything all the screw drivers chisels and everything they'd buy them down at Lyon hardware so but we still, we still had maintenance of all that kind of stuff, but we started to do more of the machine shop work also. So we were right in with the machine shop. you know. and.

MN: How is that different?

EJ: Well you use a lot of, you don't have as much hand work and and when a machine is turning like a lathe you you set it up and you have to turn certain things on it, you know, radiuses or or bore a hole out with a boring tool and then you have these what they call bridgeports with a cutter on it and if you want it to cut a something like that you know, well you you have the guide that thing and an cut around it and and then ah also use that for making holes in the within the eh ah well a half a thousandths if you want one hole here one hole over there and over here you had to index it. Both ways you know to go over this way and that way and make that so it'd be in the right spot. It(chuckling) it was all fussy work you know and just you know it it it wasn't ah uh it had to be right. There was no wrong way about it. And then make ok so I never, you know I never told em I'd been to school and they say, "How the heck come you know that?" like in the car seats they'd taken this fellow out, he'd done something wrong and they come and put the hand cuffs and he was a uh one of the sss...sample makers for bus seats. Your first bus seats you made all kinds, you know. So they come over and they ask me, "Hey, you read blueprints, would you work over there for a while?" "Sure." I'll go over there cause it's all nice hand work, you know and ahem so the fellow next to me came over when I start workin there first my first job I remember that it it was a brass ticket holder that you got on the back of a seat, you know you put your ticket in on the train seat or a bus seat.

And it was it was kinda complicated and I made it up and then when I showed it to the the super came down for the car seat, "Oh boy," he said, "that's a good job but," he said, "We can't, we can't make that in Heywood." "Well, I don't know, you gave me the blueprints so I made it up." "Er, that, that's too complicated, we can't make that here. Hey," he says, "did a good job but hereafter if you make something, don't don't make something that we can't make here at Heywoods. I said "Well, I don't know you you gave me the prints." So, anyway ah the old fella George, Well, I don't want to mention any names anyway, he ah he come over to me and says, "Uh, how do ya ya do this." "You know, "What's this/" I said, "What do you mean? You mean you can't read a blueprint? And you been here 10 12 years?" "No. I can't." He says, "Mark, that fella they brought out in handcuffs, he never showed me. He never showed me how to read a blueprint." cause cause he was afraid he'd take his job. "Hey," first name is George, "Hey, George you just wait, I'll have you reading blueprints in in less than two weeks. So I went right over and I showed him the views of the thing, you know you do this and then you get the side view and the top view and the measures are right here. Hey in a couple of weeks, he was all set. But that's how how they were. Some of the people, they wouldn't show the next guy how to do nothing. MN: Cause they were afraid they'd take their jobs?

EJ: Yeah! So I, you know, hey, he was a good guy, too so ah, anyway ah this is how in...in trade school that's a wonderful school now. It's...it's gettin, you know it's not as big as it was but they showed you how to do the drafting, you had drafting for I forget how many weeks, seven weeks or something and and you had ah oh you know drawings of all kinds of stuff and it was really really a good school. I'd re...if you wanted to learn, you could learn there and if you had a head for it, buy they wanted to make...now...ah all this work that we did you later learned how to be careful and everything in trade school. It's one thing they taught you and they didn't have the guards over hre at first on the machines or nothing but like a woodworking tool, two different times they'd pass the job out to make this little cutter they called it the dovetail cutter that cuts alot of the old fashioned drawers, Heywood used to make em with that dovetail on the end of the drawers. Gave em a job to make the cutters and when the cutters went up to the piece workers all it did was burn the wood because they weren't sharpened and made right. Well, I knew all about clearances on woodworking tools cause in school and then course at home I always used woodworking tools. Finally gave me the job you know. ok. I made the cutters up. I went up. I got a good cutter cause they used to buy them from Switzerland they paid a lot for em. So I got a good ah dovetail cutter and ah I asked the piece workers up there, you give me a good one now, then I made a template that...that was a

perfect size within a half a thousandths and when I made them cutters I gauged that so you couldn't see light through there. So then I I put a clearance in the back and sharpened the front you know when they got em up there they ah (laugh) got that job for the rest of the time I was here to make them cutters. But they lasted a long time but the guys really liked that, you know. Well they made good money then. If you push a piece of wood in they're all of it smoke and burn you know you're not makin no money but 180-200 like one of the guys about 200 pounds he pushed that through there and it goes through so nice you know the chips would fly all over. Well, I always liked that is you know satisfaction to me and ah, we ended up then after the war to ah they cut down on the metal workers and they layed off 27 no 27 or was it 19 ah it was 19 and I had 27 years seniority. And I was the last one they layed off. They cut the machine shop down made it smaller so the ah, got a phone call from the union office we had a union then you know and which was a blessing always a blessing, that's how favoritism and the ah evn though the tha and then we started of course to get holidays and vacations pays which we never had so they called up from the union office and said General Motors in Framingham would like to have ah somebody in their tool room, their short of men that understand the work you know if you guys want to go look heh so I went to Framingham when I was there, one of the other fellows from the machine shop came over there in star...there tool room is just about what we were doing here making jigs and fixtures for the new cars they'd put this jig up there and then a man would drill through these what they call bushings to get the holes for the trim and all this kind of stuff. he came there while I was there, "Hi there," "Hi" so the superintendent up there, they're pretty big boys in General Motors you know looked at the the ah application I was filling out. They taught us to fill applications in in ah General Mo..ah trade school too, so I put down I'll take rust stop and using all machine shop machines finished through jigs and fixtures or whatever is ah ah you know that ah to be made and when he saw it hey the office girl will take care of all of that he says ah so brought us in in the the tool room well, the guys in there said, there's a lot of men come inhere, Oh yeah, Oh yeah, well come to work, they just go through, they never come back because when you go in there you had to do your own grinding, use your own lathes bridgeports shapers all the ah machine shop machines you had to be able to use them. And plus do your own arc welding and your own ah _____ welding. They had that right on the bench. OK. said, "Can you start tomorrow morning?" Heh, that was on the on a Friday morning. "Yeah. We'll be in here." So I gave \$20 a week to the other guy in Gardner when he came by my house for gas you know at that time and ah we worked

there about a month and a half oh when we went in the morning the ah superintendent's superintendent took up through the main office so the guys in this tool room there was about maybe seven men in there or six men, that was rated highly. They respected that tool room. Not like in Heywood. You never got thanks. "How come you guys come through the main office? Nobody else ever comes through the main office." They all they all were driving cadillacs to work there because they paid good and they put in a lot of overtime. "I don't know because fellas come in." Well the first job that we had I worked together with this other guy they wanted a thing that ran by air to test speedometers that it when it when it went to 50 or 55 the red light would come on. So it worked out super duper. Then ah heh the the other job I got to ah they had the trim on the front of a car and it they had been punched wrong. They had ah I guess 20 or 30 thousand of them so the ah well these are engineers the ah that give you the jobs he asked me he said, "Hey ya ya spouse you could make a punch and ah we'd like to punch all these. We didn't do that work. We only made the tools to fix fix what was wrong do ya spouse you could make one? And he he had aya hollow rivet machine, now that that didn't ah that isn't something that your're spouse to use. For that because its not not sturdy enough when you pushed that that that hole in these trims there were a lot of holes. But it was very thin aluminum or something it that went on the top of the grille in the front of on top of your your hood and the air comes through. i said yah, So I made it up and I made aya guage on it then that had springs on it so you could you could punch the one hole then move it get the othr hole and it had little pins that ah when the spring would go down and while it was going this way you would push that down and go over to the next one. "Hey that's all right." So you know they were real happy with it. Well they settled Strike year. I don't remember if we gained really anything then! OH! my first pay up there that's the most money I ever made in a week. Was 200 211 for the three days because they paid time and a half on Saturday and they paid double time I worked Sunday. They paid double time. That's the most i ever made. But they were paying we were getting about 85¢ a year and I forget they were paying they were paying good was it a 1.65 or something but they asked me then to stay there when they settle the strike ahh it was a decision for me to make. And I had four kids in school and had my little place there in Hubbardston. I said, "Well...they had me in that office about three hours and when I went in that office the girls would say, "Hello" "Good Morning," "How are you?" at Heywoods go to the coffee machine they didn't want to talk to you. So it one of the guys over there, "Hey you from Hubbardston? We play basketball down there. You down farmers Hall Finn Hall

you know, "Yah,"he said, "been there many a Finn hop. Nice people." Nice people you know (two people talking together) The people the people ah all on that side of of well Gardner have a much different attitude than the people over this way.

MN: You you mean when you talk about the people being nice, those are the people at General Motors?

EJ: More sociable and and really talk to you like people should.

MN: But they were in in Framingham, weren't they?

EJ: They were in Framingham, Yah.

MN: Oh, they were Gardner people.

EJ: No no. No Gardner people they were from some town near Framingham over 50 miles away from here. So I told them I said well. They said Oh, you can sell your place and put your kids in school here. I said, "Yes, I know that but," I said, "It so happens I'll never make a million working and I...I like it where I am." I said, "I don't make I know I don't make the money in Heywood Wakefield in that shop but," I said, "I've got things I like to do. I don't get any money for it where I lived," you know I had that land. 36 acres and ah I like to get out there and drive the jold truck go ski mobiling, skiing and right there right out of the house so I sacrifice all that two of the fellows there was two of the guys that came from Heywoods. Two other guys and they did stay there but now when they retire they get big pensions but I don't think they do half of what I do and I don't have the money, they make big pensions see. They het...waht good is a pension if you're not going to use it for something and enjoy yourself? I I enjoy myself with things that don't cost money. I can, you know so this...this is what I look at the life first and the heck with the rest so this is why I ended back in Heywoods. And ah then they started more on ahh when the metal work, most of it got out of there was taken out car seats they ah quit the well...like when the politicians of the new ah republicans got in they took the railroads off, they cut out the railroads we don't have railroads now and so that kind of went to heck, you know. All that that car seat business and busses we used to have the busses going from Gardner to Worcester. We don't have that no more. The country's gone backward on their transportation. That was a main thing. To do your heavy hauling instead of having the roads all filled with 18 wheelers. So but how you gonna win? I vote one way and the ah ones that are well off just take take over so I'm still in the same position. But I don't care, let em have it. So ah anyway ah we went into repairing more than...alot of the ah machinery that was left, the woodwork, they kinda expanded some on that but the big thing was that I think they changed too many tried to keep up with too many different style. You know always making a new line and that takes a lot of alot of ah ahh expense-expense to make a new line because you gotta tool up again different kinds of ah tools to make the new line; where other shops hold their old line improve it

like the chairs and things they make you for years you know they make them and improve em and keep em good you don't you don't make a bunch of furniture and ship in into the warehouses and when they sell them the people throw them out and ship em back and you got about 10 men patching up or repairing the stuff when they come back. And even before it goes out you know it it didn't make sense they'd ask you well then they from the main office, well if you see anything anything you could suggest to us you know if you see anything. Hey if you ever tell em anything well why don't you mind your own business. You know.

MN: Really?

EJ: You know I seen a fellow puttin it was either spindles or the legs into the seats everytime he put that spindle and in put the screw in that seat would split. I'm waiting for the elevator you know to go on a repair job on a machine how come you're can't you get a little bigger drill and ah or a smaller screw so you don't split that hey hey I showed it to the boss and he said, "You do what I tell you." So he kept splitting em, piece work splittin em when they got up in the paint shop that crack shows up when you stain em. This is ridiculous, you know but that's the way it is.

MN: Did they care about the quality?

EJ: Well, it don't look like it. It it was the one that were foreman or group leaders. They call themselves foreman alot of em. Some of em were eh call themselves foreman, they belong to the union and company too. You don't have no foreman. If you're a foreman you're on management you don't belong to a union. But hey who am I for \$4.00 the most I ever made an hour I saw all these things. Who am I to go on and say anything? I don't for that money. I'm not going to. I just the only thing don't bother me when I'm you know doing something you know because generally I try to do what you're supposed to do and its and ah we had we had our work cut out for us old machinery and ah piece workers and you was like piece workers out repairing these machines because you had to make the parts you couldn't buy them no more because the machinery was so old. You had to make the parts gears and spindles and everything else. heh ah maybe you heard me downstairs when I it always stayed in mymind this one fellow was working on a machine and they have what is called a bad bearing with a shaft through it and then a pulley in the middle and this turns and runs a piece of machinery from the motor. So the hole is about yeah big and the shaft in there was like thatat least worn out over a quarter inch. Well naturally the thing was all wiggly. It hadn't been oiled see. So when I went down there I looked at it aothr piece of work. I said, "Boy, I don't know, you must have put too much oil in that." "I never oil that, I never oil that! Don't tell me that I put too much oil. Yeah. So course you know it never had been oiled so that's why it was worn and floppy so I had fix it all up when I went back. I had a little oil er you know the oil cups were on there said, You know,

and well that's what you cope with when you work, you know. In a machine shop and you had to deal with everybody. Well they had 1200 people all different kinds but I always, hey when I walked down the street now the younger generation too they all I don't have the cross the street. Hi there Eino. So it's kind of nice.

MN: How do they know you?

EJ: Because I worked so much and all through the shop. We had to go we had our little carriage with tools in it. This was a big shop; you know. Five floors machinery, 3,000 motors and at the end of every motor there was a piece of machinery. So you know when you had to repair em and some of the jobs were real big, plus the got the plastic but there was a couple other guys that er liked over time. There was a lot of overtime in plastic, well well this one thing at General Motors they were making we were there in '55 they were makin the '56 models you remember the huge bumpers on the Oldsmobiles and Pontiacs and big bigger you can't even pick em up this is the models they were making but they did want you to work overtime it meant big money but who the heck's going to be driving 50 miles at 100 miles a day and then start working overtime too, you know.

MN: Oh you mean down at General Motors?

EJ: Down at General Motors but one thing I liked over there they had a big board bigger than this well, yeah longer than that all our names were on it and when you were aksed to work overtime you could refuse. You were marked as work. You had that.. you didn't have nothing like that at this _____ at Heywood when you had something like that oh well ah us I want to get some overtime you were marked at work you didn't take that, that was your tough luck which was your right, 'Hi there. which was the right way to do it.

YE: How are you?

EJ: Well busy, busy here talking to this machine. Laugh. Yah.

YE: Making news?

EJ: No I don't think so.

YE: Some people

EJ: I don't, I do't, I won't go on I won't go on t.v. though, I do't think, you know, but yeah.

YE: Yeah I

MN: Ok Thank you.

EJ: So we're trying to get her to know what it was way back I think she's kind of starting to understand how it was way back.

YE: Yah thanks to you and other.

EJ: Yah is you know I I'm not much of a speaker but ah I fugure that's the least I can do to help her out. I'll come up here and help her out.

YE: Thank you.

EJ: Sure. Yah. I told her I said we got something in common anyway...I was born at Memorial Hospital and so

YE: Laugh you were huh?

EJ: Yah, I lived in 1920 we lived across the street across Rte 9 on Edward Street my folks. I had my tonsils out in Memorial Hospital too and then they before he'd gone to school I'd gone to kindergarten but had to have the tonsils out so you don't have no more, you can keep your tonsils. Laugh.

YE: Yah. So I think we ought to think about it and ah

MN: OK

YE: The VCR is checked out to ah

EJ: Yah so anyway I retired and that an ah at 62 and ah they wanted me to come back. If I had come back I could have got my ah unemployment or you know ah well I didn't get my unemployment because I didn't come back to work. I told them I said well you got one man here but his wife works and they need the money so I was getting my social security already you know but the unemployment a lot of em got it after 62 and 65. It averaged it came to about 1,000 but I know the minute it well they told me well you got a job here you got still a machine shop job one machinist you know. I said well I'll live without it. I said you let him work so ah they were going to lay him off see and have me.

MN: Why did you retire then?

EJ: Well I was retired to get out of here after 43 years...to get out of Heywoods. Hey if you work 43 years in a place, that's that's not my idea of living. It don't that was the trouble with most people they worked 65 67 and their health would go. I don't I don't I love my home better than I do the inside of a Heywood Wakefield shop. Laugh. You know they didn't...they loved the shop better. They didn't have to heat the palce like their house. They have to heat it and everything the shop they had to heat and everything it not my idea. No.

MN: Did they really love the shop more than their home?

EJ: Of course. Of course a lot of em. Oh yeah. Oh no, no way that their gonna retire. You know.

MN: Was it the money, or waht?

EJ: Well money of course, naturally. One party from Harringtons said ah his wife said well, "Are you retired?" "Yeah." I said. "How come your husband isn't retired?" "Well, he ah he wants to keep busy." Well he could retire you know at 62 and still go in and work for nothing. Oh no. Well evidently its the money they wanted. You see. They tell you this but their after the money part of this so I so I just ah said, I'll never make a million. It just when I gave my like when I gave my kids 2½ acres one of em the other one 2 acres and the other one an acre off my land but the lawyer she happened to be a lady lawyer, she said you know you're breaking up a good piece of land. I said

Listen, I've never made a million dollars yet and I'm never going to make it. I don't care. Let the kids have the...give em the land and which would have been big bucks now if I were to sell it off _____ I says I've learned. I've gone through a depression and I know what living is. I said the modern generation doesn't know and those that have it don't care. Those that got it built up, you know the so that's the way it goes.

MN: And do your kids live there on the land near you?

EJ: I have ah two my daughter lives, Kathy Durgis she lives there and my son David lives on the very end of my pasture. They're ah about a half mile out. My land runs in a long stretch and then my home is on this road and then there's a corner and they live o the other road. Well it's actually about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk through my woods and through the pastures. So.

MN: Well that's nice to have them close to you isn't it?

EJ: Yeah, then my other son is with 3 other people in Minnesota. Both boys went through the navy you know and ah for 4 years and then one of them settled in, well one of them was in Ventura, California with the 3 young people. Then they asked him to go to Minnesota. They flew him over there and he wo...he looked around for 3 weeks and they said you build a home over here but build it good enough that if we decide to leve it we can and ah we can sell that home there for you. So her's been there for oh I don't know how manyyears now ah... he's ah well probably 15 15 years worked _____.

MN: Electronic Engineer. He learned electronics in the Navy. And he's and Electronic Engineer.

MN: What does you other son do, David?

EJ: He he's a also in the service, he learned, he worked for the Captain typing and everything on the ship board ship and then he got a job in a pring printing outfit in in the ah the C

SHIFTING GEARS
THE CHANGING MEANING OF WORK IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1920-1980
GARDNR, MASSACHUSETTS

INTERVIEWEE: Eino Jalonen

INTERVIEWER: Martha Norkunas

DATE: November 10, 1988

TRANSCRIBER: Kathy Zelny / Linda DeLisle

Tape 2, Side B

EJ: Anyway ah they came when he he got out of ah Colonial in Clinton, Printing outfit he went to ah the ah _____ over in Templeton which used to be up here. Louis Varnis Company(?) and ah they were gonna put him the next step as a chemist to ah when they mix finishes he was good at that he was the number one to ah ah see the difference in colors. He was good a picking out colors. They'd give him a test you know so while he was there the ah the old help from the Colonial came from Worcester and asked him if he would like to come ~~and~~ to work for this printing outfit that they'd like to have him. So the money was much more than what they were paying in Colonial in the ah in the ah Louis Varnish So he went to work there and been there for years now and ah they use like the computer printing now. No more of that setting the type. They use that so he has a Swiss machine that's kind of one of a kind and he does all the ads like for Spags and and all that you see in the paper so He seems to be all set.

MN: Does your daughter have a job too?

EJ: Travels every, travels every day down there back and forth. My

MN: It's in Worcester?

EJ: In Worcester, Boylston, Worcester and Boylston line where the Fair is down there. On that Boylston Street. Yah I ah well yah, my youngest daughter is in Putnam. She ah she has a good job on automotive when they make out the the repairs that were on new cars, the guarantees. She has to fill parts that have been repaired and what it cost to repair them cause the ah garages were filling it up you know. So they send the figures in and she does ah that work. They've been trying to get help but that's complicated. Your new car parts are very complicated now compared to what they were. All this solid state stuff and its computerized so she seems to be all set. Then my other daughter is, her husband has ah a body shop in Jims Body Shop in Worcest, ah in ah at the end of the pasture there where I gave em my land. He put a body shop in there and she ah she does a little teaching for tiny tots for this tap and thing. They wanted somebody so they don't have to drive to Worcester or Gardner for these. So she has a group there at the school a couple of times a week and has these little kids doing their tapping.

MN: Oh she teaches dancing?

EJ: Does teaching in between. It's rough on her it it cause she has my the two granddaughters, you know. Then David has the two grand sons. So ah that about ah covers it you know Like I say I got my first car that '31 Chevy in 1934 or 33, 30 my Chevy That's then when we had a car and finally got a telephone and thing modern stuff you know.

MN: You know when you came to Heywood Wakefield, Why is it that you decided to go to Heywood Wakefield instead of one of the other companies when you first got a job?

EJ: Well it it was a first ah without a car it was kind of a disadvantage. it was the first place that came to mind. I wasn't familiar much with Gardner we lived, we lived in Hubbardston but we always went to Worcester. We always took the train When we, I think I came two times to Gardner before 1933. Because you had to have a car. Well you could've with the train but we always went to Worcester. Go down to the movies or anything. It was always to Worcester. Go into the five and ten and buy a ten cent bag of something to chew on and go to the movies there, you know. And once in a while to White City down by Lake Quinsigamond where the...that was something special. But no ah so but they were making ah my ah grammar school friends that went through grammar school with me they went like to oil stove and the made like 20¢. They got 50¢ I got only 30 here but that did peter out then. Some of them came a little while but then they (stutter) Heywoods but then they ah Most of em had made enough money so they the car and the didn't have ah I had four kids alot of Finn had kids so kids are a little bit expensive to raise. So anyway ah they all started to go toward Worcester and they'd double up riding, you know and go to Worcester at Nortons, Wyman Gordons and the money down that was course bigger and pensions and so forth the a company like Nortons and a Wyman Gordons they don't need ah Wyman Gordon's got a union but ah they didn't need it. They used their help decent. You know, they give you the holidays and and followed the seniority thing. You don't need to have it, but in a place like this you have to have it. It wa and the wages were kept up you know the wages were kept up down there.

MN: So you just thought of it as Well Heywood Wakefield, I'll try that.

EJ: Yes, well yes, oh yeah well going with a bicycle I didn't have much choice to go anywhere else.

MN: And how long did you get to work by bike?

EJ: Well then then I had to look for somebody that worked in Heywoods and I didn't drive over here then to work I I forget the first I think the first party I drove with maybe he was a Murdock or this other fella that worked in the ashcraft. Well one of the other ayway. Then I I would go with the bicycle up to town which is

EJ: (con't) two miles in the summer, then, then in the winter if it was good enough, I'd ski down there, and ah, when the weather was that bad I'd have to walk it, morning and at night walk it back home. Then the other fella was about a mile and a half from the house and I rode with him a long time. But, till I got my car, then, you know. I even walked down to this other fellows house when the kids was born so the wife could have the car. There's so many things you had to go for, you know, when you have kids, all kinds of little things, so I walked just the same down to this, this mile and a half morning and nights.

MN: Did she have anyone to help her with the kids?

EJ: No. No. In fact we had two cows for a while, in time, so we could get milk and butter, and then we had hens, and ah, when you talk about cholesterol, I've had plenty of it because you would eat two or three eggs at a time because you had your own eggs, and then ah, of course, when I lived at home, it was only the salt pork and stuff, no refrigerator in the winter, you had salt pork in a barrel. You put your salt and your pork on it and salt.

MN: You had a person who came to butcher the pig, right?

EJ: Yes. My father wouldn't, no, no he wouldn't kill animals either. You had a special man doing that. But then, the whipped cream we always had plenty of that, all we wanted, homemade butter all the time, butter-milk. That was my job to churn the butter all the time. And ah, but when you talk cholesterol, I sure had my share of it. I mean food that would make cholesterol plus the salt pork, ya know, and ya had this polish bread, they'd be a baker come once week from Worcester when, ya know, starting about 1927. He was selling pumpernickels, and boy they really liked that, ya know, and all kinds of pastries, you couldn't wait for that truck, and with salt pork in between that, and homemade butter.

MN: Did your mother make finnish food?

EJ: Oh ya, oh ya she always had apples that we put in for the winter, in a barrel down cellar, we had two or three barrels of russet apples, baldwins, and in the winter when it's snowing and blowing, of course, you had to have a fire going, the oven would be hot she'd make these turnovers, ya know, with apples or prunes or something, turnovers, and always finnish coffee cake, ya know finnish coffee bread, oh ya, she did a lot of cooking. My mother always, oh sure, there the ones that milked the cows, they had their work cut out for them. Clean the barn, milk the cows

MN: And later when you worked who milked your cows?

EJ: That was the worst job I ever had, I took it over, and I had to put the coveralls in the morning, and I hated to milk a cow, oh I hated that job, but I did it because, the kids, to help out. It was a job that never ended. You'd try to get the hay when the sun shined you know, and lug it up to the barn on these old tracktors and old cars, and pitch it up in a wheelbarrow or something. Oh

EJ: (con't) that I said, boy oh boy.

MN: How did you meet your wife then?

EJ: Oh she lived down the, moved from Worcester down towards the corner about an eighth of a mile from us. And, well I met her down the pond skating and she worked, she had worked in a shoe shop in Worcester. \$8.00 a week. When then, they didn't buy the place, they came to rent in Hubbardston, then they had a shoe shop in Gardner for a while, well that had to go, during the Roosevelt time's to .30 an hour. So she worked in the shoe shop. They had a big Franklin, if you ever knew what a Franklin car was, it had a wooden frame, it was a luxury car that father had bought, and she knew how to drive and boy that car had big tires on it, but then she wanted a ride when she worked in Gardner, so she asked me, ya know, if she could have a ride, so I had one or two other people that we gave them a ride back and forth from Hubbardston, about 20 miles a day, so I says "Yup, you can ride with me". So then, one thing led to another ya know. We started going to the shows here, they had the shows and one thing led to another. All of a sudden when my folks, they hadn't died yet then, but my father was living, we got married down here by a minister, in a house down here, down near the New England Lumber, that street, Coleman St. We married, decided to get married. After the hurricaine, well I lived at home a little while after the hurricaine. My father said, he was still living, why don't, if you want a piece of land, I'll give you a little piece of land, there was 150 ft. frontage, 75 ft. deep. Didn't charge me nothing for it. I cut the hurricaine stuff with a crosscut saw, they didn't have chain saws then, and a buck saw. Got the logs up near the road, dragged them with the old truck and ah, then this man with a sawmill picked them up and sawed them into rough lumber. They were two inch liked a 2x4 was a solid 2 inch, it wasn't like the 2x4's now an inch and a half you call 2x4's and then a full four inch wide. Your modern lumber is below, an inch and 3/4 they call a 2x4. But it made it rough then when you put any finish material on it. But I somehow got a house together anyway and where to live ya know.

MN: You built it yourself?

EJ: Well finally, ya, the inside, boarding it up and everything, but the framing I had an old fella, I never would, taking care of the cows and getting the wood to burn, had him work. I was getting 30-35 cents an hour and had to pay him 50 cents an hour. He wasn't that much of a carpenter but it didn't matter them days, as long as you got your frame up and got your roof on.

MN: Tell me that story, you said the guy digging the cellar, he was going to charge you?

EJ: Well, when I decided to build, I had to cut out two apple trees, russet apple trees, off the lot, and then this steamshovel was making the cellar hole about a quarter of a mile away for this lady.

EJ: She, her husband had died, she wanted to live up in that neighborhood. She had lived there before and liked our neighborhood. She had another place but wanted south, so they wanted, I asked the steamshovel guy, I'd like a 26 by 30 cellar hole six feet deep, what would you want. He says well one hundred dollars. I was making 30 or 35 cents an hour, that would have been about two months full pay. Hey, I had trouble without that kind of thing, so I started with a pick and shovel. Just like the chinese coolee and I got into that. What I did, I dug trenches about this wide on the side all around, all around the cellar hole, then the inside, I started in one corner with the wheelbarrel, I pushed that dirt, pushed it out, dump the dirt, one 26 by 30, 6 ft. deep. It wasn't gravel, it was hard pan, you had to pick it. It took, well, all that summer and then into the spring, then I had this other man from Worcester, he was supposedly a good stone man. Well I had to get the rocks out of the walls and then he laid the rocks dry and he should have used cement, there's a couple of places that kinda let go a bit, he shoulda used cement, but he laid them walls, then I had the timbers, my lumber had dried already that I had from the sawmill, then I put the ah, ah, well the sub-floor on, you know, the floor joice and everything, then I got this other guy to start putting the rest of the house.

MN: Were you married at the time you were working at Heywood Wakefield?

EJ: Well,

MN: Did you live with your parents and you . . . ?

EJ: Only a little while. The minute I got the roof on it, then got one room the kitchen, then what was going to be the bathroom, we had a chemical toilet in the bathroom, we moved into that one room, and worked at night, 11:00 o'clock, 12, to finish off some of some of the rooms in there.

MN: With your wife?

EJ: Ya, Ya, I didn't want anybody else's wife.

MN: Laugh --

EJ: Laugh - - anyway, so, ya know, all heavy work, and then I worked there about a year, carried my water from a pump house with a pail to the sink, and course I had to build a place for a septic tank. First I had a dry well which I still have from then, because that greese, it comes out, of course it's no good to have that in the tank. I'd, I'd take a nap, that took me all summer. I had to work just the same in the shop. I even worked with a lamp in the cellar hole to try to get it down. I doweded it myself with a devining rod, where I wanted to put the well.

MN: That's how you found where the well is?

EJ: Well that's where, I don't believe in it that much, but I still wanted to dig where it showed with the divining rod, if you know where.

MN: Well tell me how it works?

EJ: Well, you, I can use any green piece of , wood like, birch or apple tree, or willow is what they recommend with a lot of moisture in it. Its a fork thing like that, so you can hold it, but I can also do it with brass rods, a conductor, anything, and you just have that pointed up, you walk around, you have your hands like this, you walk around, then when that starts to bend, you gotta hold on tight, that branch bends right down, it shows where the water is, there's suppose to be water, but how deep it is, they tell you that they know some of the men, there full of buloney, it might be forty feet, it might be fifty feet, but generally you expect it to be within twenty feet. See, I'd only put mine down in fifteen feet.

MN: And how does the divining rod know there is water there?

EJ: Well, it's a, I think its static electricity thats in your body conducting towards the moisture or something, everybody don't seem to be able to do it, but, I didn't believe it at first. I had dug part way down, then I got an old dowser from town, I gave him a ride then, and I asked him if he would come up the house and try it and he went all around it and he says, I'll tell ya, ya got it just about where I'd put it, so I continued digging, I had about this much hard pan, hard dirt, I had made a big well, nine feet across. They generally make it seven, but then I put a lot of stones in there so no dirt would get in on the water, so I still got the dug well. Then I had to dig the ditch to the house.

MN: Do you're kids work as hard as you do?

EJ: Oh gee, the kids they have, I helped my oldest son build, put up a log house when I retired and the other one in Minnesota got a nice place, and Cathy my daughter, bought a place that, it was a small house, they added on to it ya know, remodeled. Then my son-in-law built that body shop there, its kinda junky, a lot of junk heaps in the back, now its getting pretty serious having that junk around. I don't know what they'll do eventually. It don't bother me, ya know, that, but I mean the fact is, that every bodys shop, I mean some of them keep it clean.

MN: Back to the shop for a minute, what was it like before the union came in?

EJ: Well it was, it was ah, depends a lot on who your foreman, we had a good foreman in the carriage department. He was of Swiss, Swedish decent, and he was a-real, real good guy. Then when I went from there to the sample room. He was alright to, ya know, nice guy, he had worked in the press room then they made him a foreman, one of the other foreman, I forget if he died or went to some other job. Everybody has their own little faults, I have my own, I can imagine, but they were okey to work for, but when it came to giving a raise or something, then one instant, I'm the only one who ever asked for a raise, I don't know if they were afraid or what, but everytime I got the raise, all of the other guys about four of them got a raise. Yup, every time.

EJ: (con't) I'll tell you, one time, we were getting about 40cents an hour, and a lot of'em were getting 50 cents, and were suppose to be in the top trade like, the sample makers ya know, and ah, so I just mentioned, I was almost ready to ah, to go somewhere else, cause I knew the money was bigger, so I just told the foreman well I think I'm going to nail the superintendant for a raise. Didn't he go down there, the next day or something and come up to me and say, hey, he says, startin from now on he says, you'll get 2½, oh, I says, I'm going to ask for 5 cents an hour ya know. 2½ cents an hour, I'm not takin no 2½ cents an hour. I went downstairs. The superintendant was downstairs. I, I said hey ah, I ah, my foreman said that I was getting 2½ cents more an hour, I says, how long does a guy hafta be here, its been quite a while since I've got any more money, I says. Well he says, its not a question of how long. I said okey, thanks a lot, I walked out. I was ready to get the heck out. I no more got upstairs when see, I had asked him how long you had to be here to get 5 cents, they would only give 2½ cents an hour see, but things had changed. At 5 cents then was nothing for an hour raise. Telephone, foreman says we got a telephone for ya, go down and see the superintendant. Okey, so I go down, open the door, he's got a big smile, ya know. He says, you're a good salesman, startin from now on your getting 5 cents more an hour. Okey, thanks.

MN: And that was before the union?

EJ: Ya, this was before the union, and then everybody else got the 5 cents more an hour. Every time I went, I went at least four times. Nobody else would go, I went. Otherwise you'd just stay down, ya know, you're doing work nobody else can do, understand you have a trade and it didn't matter. A metal worker in the wood working shop really was in the wrong place, but like I say, I liked to work with my hands in the work, but the money when I went to the store, it wasn't fair. But this is why, and then, then, I say so many times what, people had been there already fifteen years, seventeen years, the superintendant would come, well we don't have no more work for ya. Before the union, no excuse. Next morning, they'd have one of their friends in there working, no matter how good the worker was or if you played golf or something, you'd have a golfing buddy in there. This is why they needed, they had a company union first, that was no good, they still had all his favorites in a little company union, ya know. And, the benefits, if you got hurt or something, wasn't any good, the plan they had, then they got into the CIO or something, ya know the bigger union. Well then it started to mean something. They used to pay ya, if you got a finger cut off, \$300., for the finger ya know. (laugh)

MN: Was that before or after?

EJ: Before. Ya know, because of course with the union or course they got after them, and OSHA came in, came in put safety, checked the shop out, they didn't like that, they said theres to many injuries for working people, ya know getting hurt, scalp pulled off in these belt driven machines, women down there that got caught, ya know

EJ: (con't) their hair and all, that kinda stuff, you're arm would get caught, so they had to put guards. While I was downstairs on the, I worked up on the third floor, but on the car seat samples, sample work, they had, the benches were aside the wall and they had big presses that would come down and blanked out the steel the shape that you want ya know, well, one of the fellows was working there and this other fellow says, it was a slow press, it was a great big press, it was blanking out a shape like this, ya know, like a, well these things they give you an award or something, shaped that way, pretty thick, 3/16ths metal, and it would come down slow and a bold would go through and a blank would drop down, so this fellow going by says, hey you bought your mitts, because the piece was sticken a little bit in there you know, it wasn't five minutes after, somebody hollered, I turned around and I saw this guy raising his hand up, his hand was gone here. He had gone to unstick that blank that was stuck on the big press, and the slow press came down and cut his hand right off here, well what happened, there was no guard over what they called the pedal down here that you tripped that with, and when these blanks fell through onto the floor, there was a pile, that pile slipped over and it went on top of the pedal and when he had his hand there, that pile slipped over and went onto that pedal and his hand got caught under there, cut it right off. Well, this is where, this is what OSHA had them put guards over that so that even if something fell on there it wouldn't trip the pedal.

MN: But OSHA came much later didn't it?

EJ: OSHA was busy, they were there at that time, but they hadn't had time to put guards on everything. The company was mad because they had to pay to have these guards put on for safety features. Now OSHA went through every so often, they would come in to check and make sure they had, they had things like a thing in back here that would pull your hands away from the press, you put your part under there and the minute the press come down it would pull your hands away so that you couldn't have your hands in there. All different kinds, saws that were suppose to have guards on, didn't have guards on. Saws would be running exposed like that, they had to have guards on them, ya know to put the lumber. Oh, many different kinds. We had some fellow that did nothing else but make guards and put them on. But I liked it because it was a variety of work and you had to use your head. Even new, they'd buy new tools in there, and they'd have these riveting, staple guns that they staple either when they put mirrors in or something and they had to staple the cardboard or plywood or whatever they had there. But you always took time when you tried to staple, your stapler might move and go a little uneven. So, they'd bring in a new thing, in the sample room hey, ya suppose you could put a gauge on that thing. Well you look at a thing like, thats been made in a company and figure, how the heck am I going to put the outside, it's hard, you can't really drill it and tap it. So you'd leave it a little while. So I'd look at it and say I think I'll make something that would hitch up, so I'd make this thing, it would be all small stuff, you'd, have to heat, to bend it, and use the screws they had on the stapler,

EJ: (con't) and so they could, if you didn't want it, you could pick that right up and it'd be out of the way and when you needed the guage, you'd pull that down and you'd put the stapler up against the guage and then go right along and have that guage there and everything stapled fast.

TAPE 3, SIDE A

MN: When I was reading the shop news, it looks like you got awards that you made suggestions?

EJ: The highest thing that they would ever give would be maybe twenty-five dollars. You know what they give down General Motors, when one guy over there thought of a little idea, he got \$500 for just one little idea, just one little thing that he told them to put on that car to improve it. Well, the ah, the awards here, if you made a thing, and you thought of that, we, you know what they'd tell us, well that's your job to make up these things. Nobody else would think it up but when they brought, were suppose to think up all this stuff to make it so its easy. So they didn't get no award money. If the seller, himself on the job had thought it, and come down and said could you make it like this and that. He maybe would get it, but they said well its your job to make that stuff. Got no more for it or anything. But, the money was so little, and so few got it that, ya know, it actually didn't mean nothing in this plant. They got plenty of ideas, I gave ideas that I didn't care if I got anything for it, was not going to argue about those things. I'm easy going but I don't, you know, as I said before, I'm never gonna make a million. But theres so many thing,,

MN: Did you feel loyal to the company?

EJ: Just to do my work. I didn't owe them nothing, they owed me for working for such small wages and doing the work. During the war, one instant, they wanted a master gauge for radar boxes. So they come up to me, hey, you suppose you could make a master gauge for them radar boxes so we could put them together, they had to be within government measurments, Ya, I guess so. So I made up this, out of angle iron, and they kept using it, they said, were having a master gauge made in Springfield, and ah, the Springfield people were getting, I think they were getting about \$1.95 an hour, we were getting, I think only 85¢, it was during the war. So I made up the gauge, and they were able to pick this gauge up and bring it out to the other department and make these, assemble these radar boxes. It went on for about four months and they were still waiting for the master jig. I don't know how thousand radar boxes they made with my jig, that I had made, ya know, when it came in, they couldn't even pick it up. It was made out of big solid iron. This thing, so called gauge, they couldn't even pick it up. They used mine through the whole, the whole period of making radar boxes. You don't get no thanks for it, but this is just the way that it went.

MN: What about all these social things they had, did that change your feeling about the company?

EJ: You know, I'm the kind that I know where the door is, ya know, its that I don't care for it that much. I make up my own mind that I can go right to the door and to my car, ya know. I went, I went oh, to all the events, we had a good time and everything but that didn't influence me as far as staying in the company for anything like that. Simplex had big parties, but Simplex, Simplex, ah, ah, Watkins came in here, the owner of Simplex, one time there, when there was some friction between the help, and the company, and I guess they helped Heywood out some, and he came through. He couldn't believe how them people was working, putting lumber through the planers and sanding machines. He couldn't believe it. When they made the rounds through the building, they went to the other building, he turned around and came back and went through about three of them firewall doors, opened them up, looked at the help, they were still working the same way as when he went through. He thought they were only working that way while he was there. He couldn't believe it. Thats the only raise that we got, that was after he was there, because there were so few skilled workers in the machine shop, the jig and fixture makers that we were, and ah, we got a 27¢ adjustment. Thats how far behind we were per hour. Then the whole place blew up, the piecework, well, how come you give them guys, they got percentage, and they were making probably when we were making the 80¢ an hour, they probably were making \$2.50 an hour piecework. And, when you give a percentage like 5%, it adds up big to them, but were not even getting about 4¢ to make it 85¢ an hour, but they're probably getting about 10 or 12¢ an hour more, but thats on top of what they were making. Pretty quick they were up so dam high and we were only getting that little bit.

MN: Cause you were day work?

EJ: Well, ya, they, ya can't say actually production, but when you send the work out, it costs five times more for it to be made outside. But still ah, and the setup men they got the same thing as we did. The setup man would setup a big machine and the man running the machine, would probably make 10,000 or 15,000 pieces and just hang around for three or four days. He didn't have to do nothing. Here we are with big shafts, overalls on, and I always use bib overalls cause any machine you go to is oily and dirty, there we are going, and somebody else is always waiting like piecework, cause the machine would break down, I mean you used them all day and there was night shifts on some of them.

MN: Then how did the union change things?

EJ: Well, the union, the union we started to get the days off, we never got hollidays ya know. Then we got it so we got a vacation pay, one week, then a couple weeks, and in the end we had four weeks, four weeks in the end. We started out with one week, everybody else after twenty years of work you got the four weeks off.

MN: Were people suspicious of them in the beginning?

EJ: Well people don't understand it. You don't read a paper or you still got a lot of people who don't buy, read newspapers. You got a lot of this young crowd, they don't know whats going on in the world. They don't read newspapers. When its on TV, the news, they don't care about that. They just want to watch football games, and basketball games, and have a little beverage and they don't, if they got a job, they don't care. Ya know, ya gotta know whats going on a little bit in the industry and different areas. Now of course, the companies change the name and hire people for less pay and breaking up the union like that, it's bad, bad, going back to where it was.

MN: How so?

EJ: Because, they take help in and its, theres no more union when they change the name. They don't have the union then, and hire for much less money, and don't give the benefits. Digital, Digital has a group there now, I asked this young lady, I says, ah, something about the hollidays she was working, oh well, we got a guy that takes a contract for Digital, we work for him, we don't get no health benefit, we don't get nothing, we gotta pay our own, and pay for, take our own vacations. There going backward. And every day you see why the companys making more and more profit. And ah, course, I don't have no money to build anything. Its being done after they droped the bombs on us, they supplied the money and send these items back, we pay plenty for Japanese cars, TVs and everything but the price has been put on there as if it was made by out American labor. So theres no way you can beat it, but the union was a blessing here as far as even favoritism. We didn't pay much a month, I think it was \$2.00 then it went up to \$3.00 but hey, its really worth it. Then you had your health plan through the union to.

MN: Would you see much of the management people, Greenwood?

EJ: Well they, speak to them when they come outside and everything and some of them were pretty good on passing a buck. They promised they'd go check on something and never show up, ya know. No, Dick Greenwood, the boys, I'd do a job for them once in a while, ya know, in there they wanted something, do something for them. No, I didn't, never had no problems. It was, one time in the office, I had been for a, either a ruptured appendix or hernia, I had had a couple of incisions made, but anyway when I came back, I had to stay out eight weeks, cause we had to lift heavy things on the lathe, like the chuck was solid metal, it could a gone, so we could tighten that up, we didn't have any swivel or nothing that that would be on. So I was out eight weeks, I came back, they gave me six weeks of sick pay, check, I said, I got two more weeks coming. Well, he says ah, you gotta have a slip from your doctor. My doctor when I got out told me that I'm the one that feels, I'm the one that, that how I feel whether I'm able to do the work I'm doing. I said your regulations full six weeks or nothing, that means beans, because I'm the one thats going to do the work, watch myself. He said well you gotta have a slip. Okey.

MN: Now who was this?

EJ: This was the guy that had charge of the insurance or sick pay or something in the main office. So I said okey. So I told my wife when you go down to Worcester, stop in Holden, see Dr. Maylin (?) and have him write a slip. So when she went there, he had taken a piece of paper and written on there that I wouldn't be able to go to work you know, until I felt up to it. I brought it in, so what's a matter with it? Well, it gotta be on a form. I'll tell you I say's, that is the only thing your'e gonna get and your gonna give me my two weeks coming to me. I said I don't care if you call up the White House. If I write that on a piece of bark or toilet paper, the words are on there, that's all your gonna get. Well, I gotta call up the main office, and I said well, call up the main office of the White House, I don't care who you call. Call them up. Ya, ya, ya, we'll send you your checks. I said you're dam right you'll send me the checks. I'm not riding around, the words are on there, you can read the words, there in plain english, and the paper quality, there's nothing says I have to have a form to put the words on to. Oh, hey, they made it misserable for a lot of people. These are the times that I spoke up. There the times you have to protect yourself, I don't care.

MN: Would your friends stick together? Would they support you?

EJ: Oh, oh they did great in our town, there was no town hall or nothing, they'd have gatherings, and there was an old shop over there. They tore the old shop down, I don't know if it was a tannery shop or some kind of a shop. They took the lumber and just going into the center of town, it burned down now, I'm sorry to say it, they put up a hall and a grain store. We had a problem getting grain. They charged what they wanted over there in town and they didn't have a place to store the grain. They had to leave it in the freight car and pay so much for a freight car every day. So they all got together, the finish people, and they built this hall, a beautiful hall with a nice dance floor in it, a little place for coffee and for eating in the back, and built a dance floor, startin out with a small square, and it was beautiful. They got it just about done when the inspector comes from the state. Who built this place. Well they had a bunch of names there, they built it. Where's your blueprints? We don't have no blueprints. Well, you should have blueprints. I don't know, you mean they built this nice hall without blueprints or nothing? Ya, thats how we built things. So the guy looked it over and he said well, I'll tell ya, ya got it built stronger than anybody with blueprints, but you were suppose to have blueprints when you build a big place like this for people to gather in. And, he let it go, and we had a lot of swell times that they called Finn-Hop with the finnish music.

MN: In Hubbardston?

EJ: In Hubbardston, right there when you go through, there's a restaurant there now. But after you go down 68, when you start entering the town, on the right hand side, there was a burnt place with a restaurant, the hall used to be there. And all the gatherings,

EJ: (con't) basketball games they were played right in that hall.

MN: Would you go there?

EJ: Oh, I used to go there all the time, people from Gardner and everywhere, we all went there, oh sure.

MN: Were there just Finnish people?

EJ: No, No everybody loved the Finn-hop, the polish, whoever, finn-hops ya.

MN: Its a dance?

EJ: Ya, its a shortish, shortish that what they danced shortish a lot

MN: How do you spell that Shortkis?

EJ: Well, hey, now, don't ask me, it's a shortis,

MN: The name of a dance?

EJ: Ya, ya, shortis was a dance years and years ago, the Swedish dances were all full of, they called it the Finn-hop, because you hop when you make the turn, ya know.

MN: Do you speak Finish?

EJ: Oh, yes. Oh sure I spoke a little with my folks, course they learned english to from me, but course going to school so many hours a day, you didn't have to much home life, going to trade school, twelve years of school, ya still fluently, they had classes if you wanted to go to learn. I can read finish, it takes time, but I understand it, speak it.

MN: Does your wife speak it?

EJ: No, she's of Polish decent. Actually she's Polish.

MN: You're parents didn't mind your marrying someone who wasn't Finish.

EJ: No, No they were broad minded, most of the finish people are broad minded. Over here they were pretty clanish ya know, one to another, for different reasons. Well if you're born over here, well you're Polish or whatever you are. But you're a yankee if you're born here whether your polish or whatever you are. The big senario is if your born in New England, well your a yankee, so you were born over here or where?

MN: Worcester.

EJ: Oh, you're your a Pole - Worcester, well something in common then.

MN: What about at work, would the finish stick together at work?

EJ: Oh sure, they always got along good. Ya, they got along good.

MN: Like who would you eat lunch with?

EJ: No problem you had, when the times got better, you had, like some finish dentist here and like Hutala started the oil business and all that. After Roosevelt got in, all these business grew. I don't know, they don't give credit to him now I suppose, but this is what put the country on it's feet. You heard this old former administration, hey, they 're wrong, the former administration put everybody right in Gardner, kids, folks, were looking forward to sending their kids to college and all this stuff, which they did, buy ah, as I said before you gotta have some indians too, ya can't be all chiefs.

MN: Now who would, at lunch time, would there be a table of all finish people sitting together or at work?

EJ: Well, at one time they had a finish restaurant right across the street, everybody used to go there to eat. The meals were well cooked and on Pine St. they really loved that. But in time they didn't make enough, they got out of it. No, well we all ate together like, course, long before you'd go down to a restaurant. But us people from Templeton, and Winchendon, they were from all around here, even N.H. a lot of them. And, ah, we'd eat like a lot of times right in the shop, like we are here, having our lunch there. Some would live up on the hills here, because years ago they used to have tenements around and they lived in them, and they'd walk to work, they'd go home for dinner. On no, we'd always eat together, oh sure, talk about different things, play cards, play pitch, ya know, and stuff.

MN: What's pitch?

EJ: Pitch, ya you know thats a game in cards. Play at noon hours and then we'd have horse shoes out in the back, our own entertainment, play horse shoes and,

MN: Would that be just the guys?

EJ: Ya, I don't know the women, I guess they would more or less talk with each other. Most of the departments that I worked in were mostly guys, but the women, oh no, we had, then when they had their outings and things everybody mingled, ya know they all were together. But weekends they were, for a long time, were pretty clanish. The church people, had their churches ya know, and thats, they got away from that quite a bit too.

MN: The different ethnic groups would be clanish?

EJ: Well, the ah, like we went to the, in Hubbardston we'd go to the Congregational or Unitarian church. There were three churches and then they got rid of one. You'd go to any one of them churches, ya know, them finish people. They still do, ya know. But over here, of course, they, the religion, ya know, they were more stronger for a long time, but then they got away from it.

MN: The Fin's?

EJ: Well, no, no, I'm talking about the French and the Polish. No the Finish, they were strong in Finland, like my folks, over here they weren't that strong. In Gardner, they had one church where the Finish go, Finish people.

MN: What was the story you were talking about? The Finish people were interested in socialism? That was pretty strong here wasn't it?

EJ: Well a lot of, during the depression, believed in a socialist form of government, like having the government run the railroads and ah, plus there were things like that, like they, there still running them in the other countries, you can go in Finland, go from one town to another on a small bus, get to any town, over here you can't. You gotta hire a taxi, you can't afford to stay away. And of course, up there for years, they had the medicare, medical, the government, if you get sick, you have your doctors and hospital free, over Finland. Even if you never worked, you'd get a pension. My aunt over there gets a pension, she's eighty, she's real weak now, bout 84 years old. They heat their home with, they heat their sauna with electricity, can you imagine to heat that to, and they got electric stove and everything. She gets a pension, never worked.

MN: Did you go there?

EJ: I haven't. My sister wanted, she and my well I got an older sister in Rutland, she's been there four or five times but I never went. She always wanted me to go. I wouldn't fly, probably go on ship. I've never been on an airplane, I don't intend to go. You know its just, I'm afraid of heights, they say an airplane don't make any difference, I don't need to go anywhere that much. I have to take my chance on the road with these nuts driving. (laugh)

MN: What about at the shop, would the men have little parties if someone retired or ah?

EJ: Ya, they'd have a little thing sure, they'd go around collecting. One big thing, they always sold chances. You had chances on cakes chickens, pigs, roosters, old cars, anything you could imagine, always 10¢ a chance, or even 25¢ but you always had that, course if your making 30¢ an hour, that's one-third of your pay, it meant a lot.

MN: Who would organize that?

EJ: They always had that. Little bit of gambling, ya know what I mean. I never was lucky. I never won nothing.

MN: Who would organize that?

EJ: Well, whoever had something to sell, they'd go around, have these chances and with them on it. Oh there was two or three selling what they called a treasury balance ticket. You know that was really the big boys like from the mafia, ya know, 25¢ a ticket. You had prizes of \$10,000 on that, the big prize on every friday, the treasury balance. Ya, and oh, we'd get groups together and go deep sea fishing. One guy use his car, or two cars or three cars go down toward Beverly, down that way. Once in a while, if you wanted to go down to the race track, if you had any money, a lot of the guys used to go bet on the horses, ya know,

MN: On Saturdays?

EJ: Ya, saturdays, but you did nore driving then, more being social with, ya know, the dances up in different places in Gardner, ya know three or four places in Gardner. They had the dances at, well Heywoods had a band, an orchestra ya know. Which was nice.

MN: Would you go to dances?

EJ: Oh ya, go to the dances. Some of them would go, they were unable to stand up when they got there, when they had moonshine, but then, Roosevelt put in the 3.2 pretty quick, you didn't see guys laying on the side of the street or nothing.

MN: 3.2?

EJ: 3.2 being the amount of alcohol in it was only 3.2. You had to drink a barrell full of it to get drunk. Everybody used to go and start buying that, and that's when it started that you had to open barrooms and, you don't seeing people laying around, you did probably but of course now they've gone to cocaine and that stuff. I'm talking about then. No, it, a lot of gatherings, people were closer together. Closer together ya know.

MN: Did you make friends through the work place or where did you make your friends from, work or?

EJ: Well, what time I had, sure we were always friends, we had a group that when we had the time, we'd go to beaches together, ya know, couples, but as far as socializing to much, hey when you got four kids and your burning wood, and you got cows to take care of, your not running around to much. Carried that water up 150 feet through 2 feet of snow in 0 temperature to water cows, there was no running water in the barn. You worked, you worked.

MN: And you said you had a sister to?

EJ: Ya, well, I've got two actually, but one in Rutland she had been in Finland till she was about 18 and then she's been in Rutland for years, ya know the older sister.

MN: And she is like both your parents, not from America?

EJ: No, my mother was married and her first husband died in an iron mine in Minnesota, then she went to Finland, and then my, well actually it's a half sister, I call her my sister, I don't make any separation. Then she had to leave my sister over there and till she was 18. Then my mother was remarried over here and had us kids and I got my sister over here, so she married over here. But I always called her my sister, I never separated it ya know. I bring her everywhere now to. She has two, three kids of her own that are grown, ya know. But she still calls me, "Oh I want to go here, and I want to go there" So I gotta go from Hubbardston up there pick her up and bring her somewhere. Well thats the way it goes.

MN: Okey, one last thing, you know when you were working at Heywood Wakefield, did the company change much, and the way you did things change much, I mean in the ways of technology?

EJ: Well, in the beginning, oh sure, we had the baby carriages, course they got out of that, and they had school furniture made out of angle not tubing, that all the parts were made in a press room. You even had one of the school desk down there, that type they were making, but the chairs were all made out of angle iron, in fact we got a couple, my daughter's got them now, they've been through two or three generations and they still have them. I like to get it back. That was given to me by this fellow I worked with way back in 1940, and I'd like to give it back to the children that he had that used that school furniture, or them chairs. So I don't know, sometime my relatives might give them to somebody else, but there really antique, made at Heywoods, and I would like to give that to him. But then anyway, they got out of the carriage business and the car seats and train seats were really big, course through the war period, then all that cargo body, radar antennas, that was a big thing here for the number of years that we had the war. But then the car seat, as I say, this administration got in that petered out because they took of the railroads, buses and things, so that didn't help. Then they went more into furniture, and tubular school furniture, made out of tubing which you see a lot, and had bought that tube mill here.

TAPE 3, SIDE B

EJ: My niece and my nephew, lived in, they came up from New York for the summer. My mother always use to take them. Then, my wife must be splitting wood for the sauna.

MN: Does she take a sauna to?

EJ: Oh, of course, she don't put no swim suit on neither, (laugh) (laugh) Had a guy up at the shop say " Ya I go to the steam-bath, my wife puts on a swimming suit. I said, "Oh boy".

MN: So when people take sauna's they don't wear clothes?

EJ: Course not. Way back when my father in Finland, they used to go mixed sauna and swimming, they didn't have bathing suits. It didn't, nobody had no sex attached. No you didn't go in the closet to dress or anything. Well that's my younger sister and thats the one that always gives me, gets me to go chauffer her around. That was my mother, my father, this was my oldest brother. That's me.

MN: Oh, thats a lovely picture? Do you know who took that picture?

EJ: Some studio in Worcester, studio in Worcester.

MN: I wonder why they went to get their picture taken?

EJ: Well everybody had a custom then to have a family picture. That was a custom way back. Well, then, my house looking from in back of the stone wall, I'm just trying to think where that stone wall was taken, but thats my house up there. Here's an old model tractor that I used towards the later part, in fact I got one of the PV sticks that you used to roll the logs. That was, well this is some of the gang, I'm not going through all of it, we'd been blueberry picking. Well I guess thats me, and that must be my nephew there. We had a lot of people from the city that would come up. That's some of the old-timers there. Now that's me with a dog pulling a little wagon with somebody on it, in my younger days. I was in first grade, I think on here.

MN: Is that you also right here. No that is my brother-in-law.
EJ: I don't know how I got his picture, my sisters married to him. His name was Taylor. Now there's my uncle from Finland, he had been fishing. He lived in Worcester during the depression. About six years when the depression got real bad, he said "well, I'm not going to take a job away from anybody over here, I've got enough money to get back to Finland with my wife and my daughter." He went back to Finland. He lived till 75, and my aunt is still living at 84. But this is a lake near which my father had his home that they went fishing. They got fish like this. They ate a lot of fish ya know.

MN: That's your wife?

EJ: Nope, that's my sister in the young days with my nephew and my neice. In the young days. Now there, that's Sara, and Herbert, I was married at their home down here. Them were the two we used to hang around with.

MN: How did you know them?

EJ: Well, his father was a minister, and ah, buried my folks, his father buried my folks, so I didn't have any money to have a big thing for a wedding so, I went down there, just got married at their home.

MN: And you stayed friends with them then?

EJ: Oh sure, there still living. There still living, these two ya. They ah, we hung around with them, plus other people, this as I say, Oh, there's my first car, 31 chevrolet, there's my other one, 38. See my daughter picked these out of a box under the eaves and gave it for a surprise at Christmas time. I was surprised because I hadn't looked at them when they were sitting in a box. There's the old Model A again. With the kids seat. Then that was a 41 chevy. We always had to have a car, so that's the 41 chevy. We had one with a rumble seat. Now there's my house in the building process here, that was of course in the winter, but no shrubbery around it yet. My wife was a great one for planting shrubery. These are some of the Kiitos, finish for some event. I think it was a surprise party that they gave us at the finish hall. See when anybody got married like we did at somebody's house, you never got away with it, cause people, spose to be a dance my sister says, well you're gonna go to the dance, I had my work clothes on I think, I don't know I don't really feel like it. But I come from New York, I'm here now why don't you come and bring me down. So I went in there and I bought three, four tickets, ya know, ya. So I tell them, what the hecks going on in there, oh my, surprise party, so the M.C. says nobody in this town gets away with getting married and they had a big party and coffee, oh fin-hops, really nice. That was a big surprise, oh, boy. That's out in some of our old famous snow storms, before any srubery, 1941 we planted blue spruce here. You know cause this was in the open. I had an old wagon at the gait cause we use to drive the cows down here to go in the pasture by the house. There's some more snow. These are the blue spruces already planted, starting to grow now.

MN: Is that you?

EJ: Ya, that's me, with the wife and the two kids, David and Don, were the two kids. The kids when they were older were always playing in the sand somewhere down the ocean. David with his little car.

MN: Did you use to go to the beach in the summer?

EJ: Oh sure, that was our big thing. We put a lot of miles, go down Hampton and everywhere. And one of ,a nephew and a neice were there for the summer and they were always, we always took them.

MN: Did you stay over?

EJ: Ya they stayed all summer.

MN Now would you stay over at the beach?

EJ: Well, no, no, we couldn't afford that. Ya, there's one of the little heifers we had with carts.

MN: Are these your kids?

EJ: Yup, there's David, Don and then Kathy.

MN: She's a blondie Huh?

EJ: Yes, ya. There on the stops there.

MN: Did your wife stay home with them or did she work?

EJ: Well later on she had to work, she always worked the graveyard shift from 11 to 7, cause she wanted to be home with the kids, never left the kids, they were never left without their mother being there in the morning and night.

MN: Where did she work?

EJ: Well she worked in the Barre Wool, in a woolen mill, rough job. Then later on, when we were on strike, she went down Worcester Trade and she always liked nursing, she got her LPN nursing, and in the end she worked down Memorial Hospital for a couple years. They wanted her to be a supervisor. She only needed one more credit, in her high school, because she didn't finish her high school because of the depression. Needed one more credit, and I said, forget it, she was 60 years old, forget it, so she retired then ya know. That driven back and forth every day, in the winter. This picture was also, I think, Worrie Nyman, when they had the Heywood group, that's some of the Heywoods pictures enlarged. That was nice when they had that for the social club. Came and took a picture every year of your kids.

MN: Did they give you a copy of the picture?

EJ: Oh ya, ya. Now there's some of the old snow storms that we had. you haven't seen snow yet. There's the old 1919 dodge that I, that's David in there, you can't see the back end of it, hauling log wood. Oh ya, that's down the beach, probably Hampton with some of our friends, Hampton Beach. That was a cold beach. That used to be my neighbor. You know Eikenen's Machine Shop down here? That's Reino, the owner, he was my neighbor, that's when he went in the service. I taught him how to drive that old truck.

MN: And is this your wife dressed up?

EJ: Ya, ya. She got some kind of an outfit on there. That's why I say I'm going through here quickly, ya at one point, she raised dogs at one point, ya know collie dogs, and tried to make a little but when your in with animals that's the thing ya know ya can't leave them. You gotta have somebody to feed them. That was a waste of time. That's my old barn up there. That's where, well

EJ: (con't) 300 feet from my house down here. Them are the old apple trees, there still there. I, the barn, I have to let it go, it would cost a fortune to fix it. That's some little show the kids were in. Now there's a few shrubs planted in front of the house here. It's in the winter time. The trees are already grown. The blue spruces. I don't know these are some of the